Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An integrated message exchange system for collaborative business applications, comprising:

an integration repository that captures pre-loaded collaboration descriptions of a plurality of applications between which communication could be enabled via the integrated message exchange system, the pre-loaded collaboration descriptions being captured in the integration depository at design time,

a system landscape directory listing one or more installed applications with which the integrated message system communicates;

an integration directory that captures configuration-specific collaboration descriptions of the one or more installed applications listed in the system landscape directory by referencing the integration repository, and

an integration server providing a message transport layer configured to transport messages from at least one sending application of the one or more installed applications to one or more receiving applications[;] of the one or more installed applications, a business process layer configured to execute business process logic on selected messages processed by the message transport layer[;], the messages being selected based on an application of the configuration-specific collaboration descriptions captured in the integration directory, and a persistence layer, accessible from both the message transport layer and the business process layer, and configured to store a reference to each messages processed by the message transport layer.

2. (Original) The system in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a database, accessible via the persistence layer, for storing a copy of each of the messages corresponding to the message references stored in the persistence layer.

3. (Original) The system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the message transport layer includes a physical address resolution service, and a transport service.

4. (Original) The system in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a logical routing service for determining the one or more receiving applications based on the business process logic.

5. (Original) The system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the business process layer includes a business process engine for executing the business process logic.

6. (Original) The system in accordance with claim 5, wherein the business process logic is executed according to one or more business processes stored in a directory accessible by the business process engine,

7. (Original) The system in accordance with claim 6, wherein the one or more business processes are accessed by the business process engine based on content of each selected message.

8. (Currently amended) In a message exchange system for collaborative business applications, the message exchange system including a message transport layer configured to transport messages from at least one sending application to one or more receiving applications and a business process layer configured to execute business process logic on select

ones of the messages processed by the message transport layer, a message persistency arrangement comprising:

a persistence layer, accessible by both the message transport layer and the business process layer, configured to store a reference associated with each messages processed by the message transport layer, the persistence layer receiving collaboration descriptions from an integration repository that captures collaboration descriptions of a plurality of applications between which communication could be enabled via the integrated message exchange system, the collaboration descriptions being captured in the integration depository at design time, and from an integration directory that captures configuration-specific collaboration descriptions of the one or more installed applications; and

a database accessible from the persistence layer for storing a copy of each messages corresponding to the message references stored in the persistence layer.

9. (Original) The arrangement in accordance with claim 8, wherein a copy of a message is accessible from the database via access to the corresponding message reference from the persistence layer.

10. (Original) The arrangement in accordance with claim 8, wherein the persistence layer includes a machine-readable medium, and wherein each message reference includes a machine-readable signal.

11. (Original) The arrangement in accordance with claim 8, wherein the message reference includes a message identifier (ID).

12. (Currently amended) In a collaborative business application landscape, a method for integrated message exchange, comprising:

capturing configuration-specific collaboration descriptions of one or more applications installed in an exchange infrastructure, the capturing comprising reading from a listing of the one or more installed applications that is stored in a system landscape directory and referencing an integration repository that has captured, at design time, collaboration descriptions of a plurality of applications between which communication could be enabled in the exchange infrastructure, and

receiving a message from a sending application of the one or more applications;

storing a copy of the message in a database;

storing a reference to the message in a persistence layer;

executing at least one business process on the message; and

based on the message reference stored in the persistence layer, transporting the message to at least one receiving application of the one or more applications.

13. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 12, wherein transporting the message includes resolving a physical address of the at least one receiving application.

14. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 12, further comprising accumulating, in the persistence layer, two or more message references of related messages.

15. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 14, wherein transporting the message includes:

accessing and grouping the messages associated with the accumulated message references; and

transporting the grouped messages to the at least one receiving application.

16. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 12, wherein executing the at least one business process includes:

determining the at least one business process based on the message content;

instantiating the at least one business process in a server; and

executing the at least one instantiated business process with a business process engine.

17. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 16, wherein the executing the at least one instantiated business process utilizes the message reference in the persistence layer.

18. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 12, further comprising, upon executing the at least one business process, sending the message reference to a message transport layer for transporting the message to at least one receiving application.

19. (New) The system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the integration server comprises:

a runtime engine that provides messaging and business process control at runtime for connecting the one or more installed applications; and

one or more integration services that are specific to one or more of the one or more installed applications.

20. (New) The system in accordance with claim 1, wherein the integration server is a dedicated server that applies the collaboration knowledge from the integration directory in a runtime collaboration environment.